



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Roads and Parks Administration

Steve Lambert
Director

200 Antelope Rd.
White City, OR 97503
Phone: 541-774-6238
Cell: 541-401-2460
lambersm@jacksoncounty.org

www.jacksoncountyor.gov

March 30, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation
Co-Chair Senator Chris Gorsek
Co-Chair Representative Susan McLain

RE: HB 3209 Public Hearing, 03/31/2025

Dear Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my **strong support for House Bill 3209** on behalf of Jackson County. As the Roads and Parks Director, I am passionately in favor of HB 3209, as it solves multiple issues in our parks and on our roads.

Recreational Vehicle Registration Fees

Parks and recreation facilities serve an invaluable role in our state.

- They bring families and friends together, making our neighborhoods stronger and communities more resilient.
- They provide opportunities for a healthier Oregon by creating a space for exercise, in addition to connecting us with the outdoors, strengthening our mental health.
- Our parks bring businesses to our state. It is well-known that companies looking to relocate determine in, in part, where they land by the recreational opportunities for their employees.
- They strengthen our economy by attracting tourism in every corner of Oregon. In 2022 Outdoor recreation spending in Oregon totaled \$16 billion and contributed to 192,000 jobs across our state.

It takes a system of well-maintained parks to meet these needs and realize the benefits listed above, counties and state working together. Both of these providers depend heavily on recreational vehicle licensing fees to help keep our state and county parks in alignment with Oregonian's expectations. 55% of these fees go towards Oregon State Parks, while 45% help fund parks in each of Oregon's 36 counties.

With nearly a quarter century since they have been adjusted, it is long past time to raise these fees. A dollar from 2001 (last time the fees were raised) is a fraction of a dollar in 2025. During this time, the cost to operate our parks has increased exponentially; from utilities, to insurance, to a simple roll of

March 30, 2025

Page 2 of 2

toilet paper, it all costs more. You'll be hard pressed to find anything in our lives that hasn't increased in price over the past quarter century!

Abandoned RV Fund

The growing issue of abandoned RV's on our state and local roads is of serious concern and many times leads to environmental contamination. **These RV's are inhabitable, empty and in serious disrepair.** Some are stripped of their interiors, some contain raw sewage, and some contain the remnants of former drug labs. None of this belongs on our roadways.

Most all of the time, the owners cannot be traced, making the responsibility of disposing of them belong to the owner of the road. On Jackson County roads, we spend thousands of dollars each year removing these vehicles, which is money that could be spent on maintenance of our transportation system.

Much like a mattress stewardship fee, or paint stewardship program, the Abandoned RV Fee creates a program to address the inappropriate disposal of recreational vehicles, removing the burden of cleanup, remediation and disposal from already cash-strapped state agencies and local jurisdictions.

I strongly ask for your support of HB 3209 which serves to make our parks stronger, roads safer, and environment cleaner!

Sincerely,

Steve Lambert
Director